



# The Blurb



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club*  
**Public Service Since 1949**

Volume 54 Number 8

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

August 2004

*PONY EXPRESS ENDS WITH LAST  
TELEGRAPH LINK  
FROM ST. JOSEPH  
TO SAN FRANCISCO  
OCTOBER 24 1861*

PONY EXPRESS POSTMARK



*Sam F.B. Morse*

HIS FIRST TELEGRAPH MESSAGE  
WASHINGTON TO BALTIMORE  
MAY 24 1844



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**The Blurb** is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.

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**Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH**

**Submissions deadline:** all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

### ***Sunday Morning Net Schedules***

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**.....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** .....at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net** .....at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

### ***License Examinations***

are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month (except July and August) at **Northeast High School,**

**Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA**

Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M.**

**Sharp!** Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q at 215-879-0505 (day) or 215 482 0386 (eve) for the latest information.

### **Contact Phil-mont:**

**P.O. Box 88**

**Abington, PA 19001**

**<http://www.phil-mont.org>**

webmistress Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net

**For club information:** contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes, and articles that are for the membership e-mail list should be sent to:  
**wb3koj@comcast.net**

***The club meets*** at 7:30 PM on the **second non-holiday Wednesday** of every month except July and August at ***The Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill***

**801 Ridge Pike**

**Lafayette Hill, PA**

**19444-1799**

***All visitors are welcome!***

### ***Club Stations***

**W3QV Club Repeater – Trustee: W3BBB**

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA

**147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz & 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz**

**W3AA at Northeast High School –Trustee: WU3I**

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia, PA

**W3EM – Field Day and special event station**

**Trustee: W3VVS**

**President: W3STW**

**Al Tribble**

**2848 Carter Rd.**

**Trevoise PA 19053**

**wstw@juno.com**

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mtarab01@villanova.edu**

***Directors:* W3BBB(05), N3MT (05), N3XKE (05) WU3I (04), K3XS(04), N3XYZ(04), KB3IV(A)**

### ***Committees***

Archives: NG3P

Audit: NS3K

Awards: open

Blurb folding:

WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Directory: WB3KOJ

DX: N3MT

Emerg. Coord.: K3HWE

Field Day: KE3QB

Internet: K3XS

Membership: W3LEN

Net Control: KB3IV

Publicity: W3RM

Program: Club VP

Public Service: open

Refreshments: W3AOK

Repeater: W3BBB

Skywarn: WX3PHI

Sunshine: N3GLU

Youth: N3MT

TVI: W3VVS

VE Program: ND3Q

W3AA Trustee: WU3I

Welcome: K3CJ.

# PMRC Field Day 2004 scores



## Field Day Entry Form

**Submitted by:**

CARMELO J. DECICCO, KE3QB

Datestamp: 2004-07-20 20:38:12

Confirmation: 0428b1ec07b74046

 Call Used: **W3EM** GOTA Station Call: **W3PSH** ARRL/RAC Section: **EPA** Class: **6A**

 Participants **20** Club/Group Name: **PHILMONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB**

 Power Source(s): **Generator**
**List of GOTA Operators:**

KB3HIU, N3YXZ

 Power Multiplier: **2X**
**Bonus Points:**

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	600
Media Publicity	100
Set-up in Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Formal NTS messages handled - No.=10	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
GOTA station 100 QSOs achieved (tot=107)	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Non-traditional mode: <b>ATV</b>	100
Non-traditional mode: <b>SSTV</b>	100
Non-traditional mode: <b>APRS</b>	100
<b>Total Bonus Points</b>	<b>1,850</b>

**Score Summary:**

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
<b>Total QSOs</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>487</b>	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>1509</b>

**Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:**

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m					208	100
40m	350	100			31	100
20m	32	100	53	100	57	100
15m	5	100			56	100
10m					70	100
6m					24	100
2m					5	100
1.25						
Other						
Satellite						
GOTA	71	100			36	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>		<b>53</b>		<b>487</b>	

Claimed Score = 3,018

## New Youth Group starts HF net on 40m

We are pleased to announce the start of the ".275 Youth Group". We are an informal ragchew group that meets every Saturday at 9: 00 P.M. Eastern on 7.275 MHz or on a frequency +/- 10KHz different. The duration of the net will vary from time to time depending on the amount of check-ins and how much people have to talk about. Anyone young or young at heart is welcome: third party, techs, generals, amateur extra's, yl's, om's, etc.

Also, you can visit our web pages. They are [www.n5eil.741.com](http://www.n5eil.741.com) and [www.275youthgroup.4t.com](http://www.275youthgroup.4t.com). We are here as a net to promote youth to use HF and to get to know one another. We also will try and cater to the needs of young hams, such as: perfecting the art of Morse code, dx'ing tips, and other miscellaneous questions.

Our head net control is Charles, KG4KCT, in South Carolina. Our webmaster is Neil, N5EIL, in Texas. Our person of contact for the net is Timothy, W8LBO, e-mail [timothy0little@yahoo.com](mailto:timothy0little@yahoo.com) in Michigan.

The story behind this net goes back a little ways. About a year ago Charles posted an article on the youth forum of eHam.net asking whether anybody would like to help start the net. Some youth responded but nothing got started. Then about a month ago Timothy read his article and thought it was a good idea so he posted another article.

Neil was the only one who responded. Charles was then contacted to see whether he was still interested. Little did we all know that setting up a net for the first time was not an easy task. After battling e-mails amongst ourselves, talking on AOL Instant Messenger, [chat.dxers.info](http://chat.dxers.info), and trying to make contact on 40 meters, we finally came up with the plan you read above. There were definitely a couple of times this thing almost died before it started. Our persistence paid off, and there still is a lot of room for error, but we hope the net lasts a long time.

Don't worry if you're new to radio, we all start somewhere. And don't get embarrassed if you goof up. Just don't act like a lid or interfere on purpose. If we do interfere with an ongoing QSO or a net, please let us know; we will move frequencies and try to prevent it from happening again.

We hope that the net will bring many hours of enjoyment to all. 73 and we're looking forward to hearing you on the net.

N5EIL (Neil), KG4KCT (Charles), and W8LBO (Timothy)

## FREE RADIO EQUIPMENT

Phil-Mont has been given the equipment shown below without charge. It is offered to any ham who will use it on a first-come first-served basis with no guarantees. Equipment was working when removed. No cables, control heads, or documentation available from PMRC.

If you're interested, contact Jim Spencer W3BBB (147.03 or 215-362-5172)

Anything remaining on September 1 goes into the dumpster.

- 2 GE VHF Repeaters (150-160) No Pwr Supply
  - 3 GE UHF Repeaters (450-460) w/power supplies
  - 3 UHF Commercial 7 element beams
  - 1 72" GE enclosed rack cabinet ( No rear door)
  - 3 GE Ranger mobiles (460-466) 15 W out
  - 1 2 element VHF beam (Commercial)
  - 2 Motorola Tx in cast chassis (Freq range, Pwr unknown)
  - 1 GE EC65PPU91A Mobile (445-450) 4 freq
  - 1 MX66KCS66A Mobile (154.xx) 2 freq
  - 1 MX74KFS33A Mobile (46.xx) 2 freq
  - 1 EVR15MS Mobile Rptr Control
- Assorted hand mics, remotes, etc.

## BPL Threat in the News

### ARRL Board endorses Grassroots Lobbying Campaign

ARRL HQ, Jul 20, 2004

The ARRL Board of Directors has formalized a grassroots congressional lobbying program—with an initial focus on BPL. Acting July 16 during its second meeting of 2004—held in Windsor, CT, and chaired by ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP—the Board acknowledged the need to "immediately begin a BPL grassroots lobbying campaign" this year. To establish a coordinating structure, the Board created the positions of Division Congressional Action Chair, Congressional Action Coordinator and Congressional Action Assistant. The Board authorized the League's 15 division directors to appoint qualified volunteers to these positions. Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, who headed the Ad Hoc Committee on Grassroots Lobbying, sees the creation of a national "political machine" as a practical way to protect Amateur Radio spectrum.

"We're really, in essence, changing the culture of how we operate," Fallon said after the meeting. "We're going to use our members as constituents to talk to key legislators." Fallon said the campaign will zero in on BPL in the near term but eventually could expand to support bills dealing with spectrum protection and deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs), and their impact on amateur antennas.

"It can be more effective for two or three constituents to walk into a lawmaker's office to pitch their cause," Fallon said, adding that such contacts also open the door to later meetings between members of Congress or their

staff members and League officials. He said first and second tier contact lists already are under development.

The committee's report notes that the FCC alone no longer decides Amateur Radio's fate. "There was a time when good technical arguments to the FCC could win the day for us," the report says. Over the last decade, however, Congress and, more recently, the Executive Branch, have become involved in spectrum and telecommunications issues.

Under the plan the Board adopted, the Division Congressional Action Chair, one in each ARRL division, would be a cabinet-level volunteer with some experience in lobbying activities. There would be at least one Congressional Action Coordinator in each state, ideally selected in consultation with section managers.

"A key task of the Congressional Action Coordinator and his or her team will be to bring about face-to-face meetings with key congressional committee members," the ad hoc committee report says. Fallon says that while arranging personal get-togethers with members of Congress often is difficult, meeting with key aides is not. "Making these initial contacts is at the core of our grassroots campaign," the ad hoc committee said in its report.

"In effect, the 'grassroots team' will be opening the door for President Jim Haynie and others to deliver our message in Washington," the committee report predicts.

Fallon said the grassroots lobbying effort will fold into a comprehensive broadband over power line strategy, which the Board discussed at length but did not make public. The Board expressed the hope that the lobbying effort could be up and running by fall.

## ARRL Seeks Clarification of FCC Response to BPL Interference Complaint

ARRL HQ NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 23, 2004

The ARRL wants the FCC to further explain its recent response to a North Carolina amateur's complaint of BPL interference. FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Deputy Chief Bruce A. Franca replied July 22 to an April 27 BPL interference complaint from Thomas A. Brown, N4TAB, of Wake Forest.

Brown had complained of BPL interference to his amateur HF mobile station emanating from a Progress Energy Corp (PEC) BPL field trial in the Raleigh area. In his letter, copied to ARRL, Franca said an on-site investigation had concluded that PEC's BPL trial "is in compliance" with FCC rules and that the company's ham band notching efforts "are effective" to avoid the potential for harmful interference. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, however, cited evidence to the contrary.

"It is not at all clear that the tests and measurements taken by the FCC . . . established the absence of harmful interference to licensed stations," Sumner responded July 22. He said the League would like the OET to make its test report available to the general public or at least to the League for technical review and comment. The ARRL also wants to know what steps PEC took between April 27 and June 28—when the FCC began its testing—to address interference complaints from Brown and several other radio amateurs.

The FCC defines as "harmful" any interference that "seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radiocommunication service operating in accordance with the Radio

Regulations."

According to Franca, FCC personnel "undertook extensive testing and measurements" of the PEC BPL system between June 28 and July 2. The complainant—Brown—says the FCC delegation never contacted him while it was in North Carolina. Franca says FCC measurements indicated notch depths averaging 24 dB below Part 15 emission limits, which he characterized as "sufficient to eliminate any signals that would be deemed capable of causing harmful interference, including interference to amateur operations."

Franca maintained that "in no instances" were signal levels high enough to "cause serious degradation, obstruction, or repeated interruption" of amateur mobile or fixed communications. He conceded, however, that notching on 10 meters was somewhat less effective at the low end of the band and said the FCC would instruct PEC and its partner, Amperion, to widen its notch there.

Sumner noted that the Part 15 device operators "must eliminate all harmful interference, and therefore in some cases much achieve more—in certain cases, considerably more—than a 24 dB reduction in order to be in compliance." He also cited recent reports from amateurs in the area indicating that strong BPL interference continues in parts of the PEC trial zone.

"From consulting with the amateurs who have been and continue to receive harmful interference from the Progress Energy trials, we find that while the interference has been reduced (but not eliminated) in some parts of the amateur bands, it continues unabated in others," Sumner told Franca. Amateurs in the Raleigh area on July 17 and again July 22 monitored a BPL signal "at full strength and causing harmful interference" from 14.290 to 14.350 MHz. "Harmful interference" also was

reported in the first 100 kHz of 15 meters as well as on the WWV/WWVH frequencies of 15.000 and 20.000 MHz and on several international broadcasting bands.

"Even in the notched bands," Sumner said, "the interference was still evident on ordinary amateur equipment." He said it's clear to ARRL that the system's Holland Church Road site—where the most recent amateur measurements were taken—is in violation of Part 15.

For his part, Brown—an engineer with considerable RF experience—said he was glad the FCC finally took some action, but found some of Franca's assertions "very troubling." He told ARRL that his 14-page complaint cited interference "sufficient to mask a weak signal," although it did not register on his S meter. "S0 is still microvolts of signal level," he pointed out. An active Amateur Radio Emergency Service District Emergency Coordinator, Brown said it's not unusual to have to copy similarly weak signals during an HF emergency net.

"This was an action on behalf of the

FCC simply to show action," Brown asserted. "I suspect the principal reason for their coming down here was to say they've actually done something." He also worried that the FCC was attempting to define a standard of "acceptable interference" within the framework of what constitutes "harmful interference." "If it interferes, it interferes," he maintained.

In his letter Sumner also requested that the FCC clarify some additional aspects of its testing and measurement, including specifics on tests at two fixed Amateur Radio station locations where Franca said the FCC observed "no BPL interference" on ham frequencies, and what kind of amateur equipment was used to "show little field strength or observable signal levels in the notched bands," as Franca reported.

"Until these points can be clarified," Sumner concluded, "we trust that the Commission will not permit its conclusion to be erroneously represented as having given the Progress Energy trials a 'clean bill of health.'"



At press time P.M.R.C. has:  
 103 FULL PAID MEMBERS  
 9 FAMILY MEMBERS  
 1 YOUTH MEMBERS  
 1 HONORARY MEMBERS  
 0 PENDING MEMBERS


## August Birthdays

02 Tom Bohlander – WA3KLR  
 04 George King – W3PXY  
     Barbara Sampson – KB3KCA\*  
     Alice Tannenbaum – WA2BTB (XYL K2BN)  
 05 Rollie Madara – W3PWG  
 09 Carolyn Popovic – KA3VLJ  
 14 Lucille Gargano (XYL N3YGY)  
     Pat Mescanti (XYL K2LK)  
 15 Art Lester – W3FWI  
     Richard Williams – KB3CPC  
 17 Kitty Newman (XYL KC2FIO)  
 19 Donna Lynn Larkin –  
     WA1WYQ (XYL KA2FFP)  
 24 Frank Burstein (OM KB3ANO)  
 30 Paul Bohlander – W3VVS  
     Vincent Buono – WA3ADI  
 \*New member 2004

**FD 2004 quick pix**  
de W3STW







**ARRL VEC**  
**Monthly Phil-Mont**  
**VE Exams**  
 Will resume in September  
*(See page 2 for details)*

Date	August 2004 with PMRC
Sun 01	NCS: 2m and HF: W3YXZ
Mon 02	
Tue 03	
Wed 04	No Meetings in August
Thu 05	No Exams in August
Fri 06	
Sat 07	
Sun 08	NCS: 2m N3OWM HF: WA3KIO
Mon 09	
Tue 10	
Wed 11	No Meetings in August
Thu 12	
Fri 13	
Sat 14	
Sun 15	NCS: 2m and HF: KB3IV
Mon 16	
Tue 17	
Wed 18	
Thu 19	
Fri 20	
Sat 21	
Sun 22	NCS: 2m N3FTY HF: W3STW
Mon 23	
Tue 24	
Wed 25	
Thu 26	
Fri 27	
Sat 28	
Sun 29	NCS: 2M and HF W3BBB
Mon 30	
Tue 31	

First Class Mail



The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc  
 641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115